# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:684
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2002
VISIT OF IRISH MINISTER OF TRADE
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA;SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether Ireland`s Minster of Trade led a 27 Member delegation to India recently;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held between two countries in the field of trade and commerce;

(c) the present trade balance between the two countries;

(d) whether new areas of trade have been identified by both the countries in the near future;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the likely increase in the trade between the two countries after identifying new areas of cooperation;

(g) whether Ireland has shown interest in import of any Indian items which were hitherto not exported to that country; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ( SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY )

(a ) to ( h) : The Irish Minister of State for Trade and Commerce visited India in October 2002 accompanied by an Irish trade mission. The mission members included representatives from the sectors of education, software / IT, biotechnology and industrial sectors, which is indicative of the priorities for bilateral economic relations. During interaction with the Indian side, IT Sector, pharmaceuticals, tourism, biotech and other knowledge based industries were considered as the possible growth areas for bilateral trade.

The Indo - Irish trade is of the order of US $ 186.81 million per annum ( 2001-02), with a positive trade balance of US $ 16.95 million in India`s favour. Such bilateral interactions would facilitate increase in bilateral trade between the two countries.